20th August 1955]

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) No, Sir.

" (c) No, Sir.

" (d) Does not arise."

* 2140 *Q.*—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) how many (1) blind and (2) deaf persons are at present employed under the Government; and

(b) what steps the Government propose to take to secure employment to blind and deaf persons who have been trained in Government institutions for the blind and the deaf?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) According to the physical standards prescribed for admission to the public services, blind and deaf persons are ineligible for appointment under the Government. No information is however available as regards the number of persons who may have had their sense of sight or hearing affected after entry into Government service.

" (b) The Government do not at present have any proposal of the kind under consideration."

SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" As the present rented building has not sufficient space for the children, may I know whether the Government have under consideration a proposal to construct a separate building for the school? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, that will have to be considered in due course."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Since these handicapped section of humanity, namely, the blind and deaf persons require commisseration and encouragement from the Government, may I request the Government to give some preference to these persons in matters of Government employment? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I do not think it will be possible to take in blind and deaf persons in preference to other able-bodied persons who are also unemployed and properly fitted. I do not also think there is any need to change the existing rules."

Conversion of child welfare centres into maternity homes in the City.

* 2141 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the amount sanctioned as loan to the Corporation of Madras for the conversion of child welfare centres into maternity homes in the City of Madras?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Rs. One Lakh, Sir."